



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/019,101	12/20/2001	Clifford Lee Hannel	intdyn01.021	8647

7590

03/04/2004

Gordon E Nelson
57 Central Street
PO Box 782
Rowley, MA 01969

EXAMINER

LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

5

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/019,101

Applicant(s)

HANNEL ET AL.

Examiner

Etienne P LeRoux

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Specification

This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. as follows.

The attempt to incorporate subject matter into this application by reference to PCT/US99/1485, Hannel, et al., Generalized policy server, filed 6/28/99 is improper. PCT/US99/1485 is an invalid PCT number. Furthermore, PTO records show that instant application 10/019,101 is a National Stage entry of PCT/US00/17078 filed on 6/21/00. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "the query being addressed to a database table" and furthermore "the virtual database service receiving the query." The scope of the invention is difficult to determine

Art Unit: 2171

because it is unclear whether the query is addressed to the database table or to the virtual database.

Claims 2-14 are rejected for being dependent from a rejected base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat No 5,504,890 issued to Sanford (hereafter Sanford).

Claim 1:

Sanford discloses apparatus for providing information in response to a query where the query and the response thereto have defined forms, the query being addressed to a database table having at least one row, each row having at least one named field, the query including at least one field name to specify the information to be provided in the response and an indication of a manner of selecting a row containing the information from the database table, the apparatus comprising:

- a virtual database service [col 6, lines 6-10]
- an information source for the information to be provided which does not use the named field to identify the information to be provided to the virtual database service receiving the query [flat file view, col 3, lines 13-35],

Art Unit: 2171

- using the indication of the manner of selecting a row to obtain the information to be provided from the information source [contributor-specific subset of data fields, col 2, lines 24-38]
- providing the information in the response, whereby the apparatus presents a virtual database table of the form addressed by the query to a source of the query [viewing prioritization rule set, col 1, line 62]

Claim 2:

Sanford discloses a manner of selecting a row includes a selection value; and the information source provides a component of the information to be provided in response to a match between the selection value and a pattern that matches a plurality of values and is accessible to the information source [viewing prioritization rule set, col 1, line 62]

Claim 4:

Sanford discloses the information source is an access evaluator which determines whether a user may have access to an information resource; the manner of selecting the row includes information from which the user and the information resource may be determined; and the provided information includes an indication of whether the user determined from the information may access the information resource determined therefrom [Fig 8, col 12, lines 4-16].

Claim 5:

Sanford discloses the access evaluator determines whether the user may have access to the information resource by considering one or more access policies, each access policy indicating whether a user group may have access to a set of information resources and access by

Art Unit: 2171

the user to the information resource being allowed when the access policies for the user groups to which the user belongs and the sets of information resources to which the information resource belongs so indicate; and the manner of selecting the row contains membership information about the user from which membership of the user in a user group may be determined [collaboration amongst contributors, col 2, lines 11-23].

Claim 6:

Sanford discloses the access evaluator uses the membership information to determine membership of the user in a user group [Fig 8, col 12, lines 4-16].

Claim 7:

Sanford discloses the access evaluator determines that there may be a user group such that membership in the user group would give the user access to the information resource; and the provided information indicates a method of providing further information about the user in a further query from which the user's membership in the user group can be determined [collaboration identification, col 7, lines 20-23].

Claim 8:

Sanford discloses the further information includes authentication information which may be used to validate the user's identity [[collaboration identity, col 7, lines 20-23].

Claim 9:

Sanford discloses an additional information source that is an authenticator, the authenticator using the authentication information to validate the user's identity [another collaboration identification, col 12, lines 35-41].

Claim 10:

Sanford discloses the response to the further query provides an indication whether the user's identity is valid [Fig 8, col 12, lines 4-17].

Claim 12:

Sanford discloses an additional information source that is an authenticator which validates the identity of the user; the authenticator uses the membership information to validate the identity of the user; the access evaluator determines membership of the user in a user group only after the authenticator has validated the user's identity [Fig 4, 125 collaboration number, col 7, lines 15-20].

Claim 13:

Sanford discloses an additional information source that is an authenticator which validates an identity of the user; the manner of selecting the row includes authentication information which the authenticator uses to validate the user's identity; and the provided information is obtained at least in part from the authenticator and includes an indication of whether the user's identity is valid [Fig 4, 125 collaboration number, col 7, lines 15-20].

Claim 14:

Sanford discloses an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the manner of selecting the row includes profile information gathering information which indicates to the profile information source how to gather the profile information; and the provided information is obtained at least in part from the profile information source and includes the profile information.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanford in view of The Coldfusion 4.0 Web Application Construction Kit, Third Edition by Ben Forta, Nate Weiss, Michael Dinowitz, Ashley King and Davis Crawford (hereafter Forta), Published December 23, 1998.

Claim 3:

Sanford discloses the elements of claim 1 as noted above.

Sanford fails to disclose wherein the query is an SQL query addressing the database table; the field name is contained in a SELECT clause in the query; and the indication of the manner of selecting a row is contained in a WHERE clause in the query.

Forta discloses wherein the query is an SQL query addressing the database table; the field name is contained in a SELECT clause in the query; and the indication of the manner of selecting a row is contained in a WHERE clause in the query [Listing 8.6 and Fig 8.20].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanford to include wherein the query is an SQL query addressing the database table; the field name is contained in a SELECT clause in the query; and the indication of the manner of selecting a row is contained in a WHERE clause in the query as taught by Forta.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Sanford per the above for the purpose of selecting a table and filtering out the rows which are not of interest.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanford in view of US Pat No 5,748,890 issued to Goldberg et al (hereafter Goldberg).

Claim 11:

Sanford discloses the elements of claims 1, 4 and 5 as noted above.

Sanford fails to disclose an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the information about the user includes a user information retrieval method specification that specifies how the user profile: information source provides the additional information; and the access evaluator uses at least some of the additional information to determine membership of the user in the user group.

Goldberg discloses an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the information about the user includes a user information retrieval method specification that specifies how the user profile:

Art Unit: 2171

information source provides the additional information; and the access evaluator uses at least some of the additional information to determine membership of the user in the user group [user's role, claim 3].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanford to include an additional information source that is a user profile information source which provides additional information about the user; the information about the user includes a user information retrieval method specification that specifies how the user profile: information source provides the additional information; and the access evaluator uses at least some of the additional information to determine membership of the user in the user group as taught by Goldberg.

The ordinarily skilled artisan would have been motivated to modify Sanford per the above for the purpose of providing additional means of authenticating a user within a user's group.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne LeRoux whose telephone number is (703) 305-0620.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308-1436.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Application/Control Number: 10/019,101
Art Unit: 2171

Page 10

Patent related correspondence can be forwarded via the following FAX number (703)

872-9306

Etienne LeRoux

March 1, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Etienne LeRoux', is written over the printed name and date.